

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
March 7, 2021
Third Sunday of Lent
Exodus 20:1-17 + 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 + John 2:13-25



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Sacred Compass

Before the onset of GPS (Global Positioning System), when driving to a new location, I often found myself going in circles, missing a street sign and taking a complicated route. GPS gave me the best way to go and alerted me to any detours along the way.

This Sunday's readings provide us with a compass for our journey. When the Israelites left Egypt they found themselves at the base of Mount Sinai. Moses climbed to the top of the mountain and gave the people directives to follow: there is one God; honor God and his name; murder, adultery, stealing, lying destroy the community. Obey these directives and you will be following the right path. All of these messages reflect the Wisdom of God. God gave the Israelites a way to respect the covenant between God and God's people. They were guidelines to show us how to live.

On our journey there can be obstacles along the way. When Paul meets the people of Corinth, he sees complications. He knows the Greeks cherished intellectualism and appeal to reason rather than faith. Some Jews want signs and miracles. Both rejected the Christ who was, in their eyes, a failure. Paul preaches Christ crucified to them and argues that the vulnerable and debased Christ is the power and wisdom of God. God's wisdom reverses human wisdom. There are those who believe in the power of the crucifixion and those who don't. The former are wise; the latter are foolish. These are signs along the way. We need faith in Christ.

John's Gospel tells us of the Temple in Jerusalem and the importance of that sacred space as dwelling place of God. But symbolically, more importantly, is the message from Jesus that he is the new temple. Jesus is the wisdom of God. As our lives unfold, stay alert to the wisdom of God. We have the words of Scripture, we have Paul who tells us to be alert to the challenges along the way, and we have the promise of the crucified Christ.

As we enter the third week of Lent, may the Wisdom of God be our guide.